

HIGH VOLTAGE AND LOW ON-RESISTANCE LDMOS TRANSISTOR HAVING EQUALIZED CAPACITANCE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to semiconductor devices, and more particularly to a lateral power MOSFET.

Description of Related Art

[0002] The development of single chip process for integrating power switches with control circuitry is a major trend in the field of power IC development. The LDMOS (lateral double diffusion MOS) process in particular is currently being applied to manufacture monolithic ICs. The LDMOS process involves performing planar diffusion on the surface of a semiconductor substrate to form a main current path oriented in the lateral direction.

A LDMOS process using a reduced surface electric field (RESURF) technique with a low thickness EPI or N-well can achieve a high voltage with low on-resistance.

[0003] In recent developments, many high-voltage LDMOS transistors have been proposed by Klas H. Eklund, in U.S. Patent **4,811,075** entitled "High Voltage MOS Transistors"; by Vladimir Rumennik and Robert W. Busse, in U.S. Patent **5,258,636** entitled "Narrow Radius Tips for High Voltage Semiconductor Devices with Interdigitated Source and Drain Electrodes". However, the drawback of these prior arts is that aforementioned LDMOS transistors have higher on-resistance. Therefore, high voltage and low on-resistance LDMOS transistors are proposed by Klas H. Eklund, in U.S.

Patent **5,313,082** entitled “High Voltage MOS Transistor with a Low On-Resistance”; by Gen Tada, Akio Kitamura, Masaru Saito, and Naoto Fujishima, in U.S. Patent **6,525,390 B2** entitled “MIS Semiconductor Device with Low On Resistance and High Breakdown Voltage”; by Vladimir Rumennik, Donald R. Disney, and Janardhanan S. Ajit, in U.S. Patent **6,570,219 B1** entitled “High-voltage Transistor with Multi-layer Conductor Region”; by Masaaki Noda, in U.S. Patent **6,617,652 B2** entitled “High Breakdown Voltage Semiconductor Device”. Although a high voltage and low on-resistance LDMOS transistor can be manufactured, the complexity of the production processes increases the production cost and/or reduces the production yield. Another disadvantage of these proposed transistors is none-isolated source structure. The none-isolated transistor current could flow around the substrate. This may generate noise interference in the control circuit. Besides, the current of the LDMOS transistor can generate a ground bounce to disturb the control signals. In order to solve these problems, the present invention proposes a LDMOS structure to realize a high breakdown voltage, low on-resistance and isolated transistor for the monolithic integration.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] A high voltage LDMOS transistor according to the present invention includes a P-substrate. A first diffusion region and a second diffusion region containing N conductivity-type ions form a N-well in the P-substrate. The first diffusion region further develops an extended drain region. A drain diffusion region containing N+ conductivity-type ions forms a drain region in the extended drain region. A third diffusion region containing P conductivity-type ions forms separated P-field blocks located in the extended drain region. The P-field blocks have different sizes. A smallest size P-field

block is nearest to the drain region. A source diffusion region having N⁺ conductivity-type ions forms a source region in the N-well formed by the second diffusion region. A contact diffusion region containing P⁺ conductivity-type ions forms a contact region in the N-well formed by the second diffusion region. A fourth diffusion region containing P conductivity-type ions forms an isolated P-well in the N-well formed by the second diffusion region for preventing from breakdown. The isolated P-well located in the second diffusion region encloses the source region and the contact region. A largest size P-field block is located nearest to the source region. The P-field blocks located in the extended drain region form junction-fields in the N-well to deplete the drift region and equalize the capacitance of parasitic capacitors between the drain region and the source region. A channel is developed between the source region and the drain region extending through the N-well. The separated P-field blocks can further improve the on-resistance of the channel. A polysilicon gate electrode is formed above the portion of the channel to control a current flow in the channel. Furthermore, the portion of the N-well generated by the second diffusion region produces a low-impedance path for the source region, which restricts the current flow in between the drain region and the source region.

[0005] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general descriptions and the following detailed descriptions are exemplary, and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed. Still further objects and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the ensuing description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the invention, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The

drawings illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0007] FIG. 1 shows a LDMOS transistor including parasitic capacitors according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0008] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a LDMOS transistor according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0009] FIG. 3 shows a top view of the LDMOS transistor shown in FIG. 2 of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0010] Traditional approaches to achieve a high breakdown voltage of the transistor are to divide the potential difference between the potential in a drain-to-source channel. However, the variation of the doping density may cause a poor production yield. In order to get a higher breakdown voltage and increase the transistor's production yield, the present invention further takes parasitic capacitors of the transistor as a parameter to improve the transistor structure and design, in which the capacitance of the parasitic capacitors is equalized.

[0011] FIG. 1 shows a LDMOS transistor **100** having a drain electrode **10**, a source electrode **20** and a polysilicon gate electrode **40**. Between the drain electrode **10** and the polysilicon gate electrode **40** are parasitic capacitors **101**, **102**, **103** and **104** connected in series. Between the drain electrode **10** and the source electrode **20** are parasitic capacitors **105**, **106**, **107**, **108** and **109** connected in series. When a high voltage is applied to the drain electrode and source electrode, the high voltage will be divided to these capacitors **105~109**. If the capacitance of the parasitic capacitors is uniformly distributed, the

voltage will be equally divided and therefore a higher breakdown voltage can be achieved. To facilitate the equalized capacitance, the dielectric and the geometric of the transistor must be properly controlled.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the LDMOS transistor **100** according to the present invention. The LDMOS transistor **100** includes a P-substrate **90**. The LDMOS transistor **100** further includes a first diffusion region **33** and a second diffusion region **37** containing N conductivity-type ions to form an N-well **30** in the P-substrate **90**. The first diffusion region **33** comprises an extended drain region **50**. A drain diffusion region **53** containing N⁺ conductivity-type ions forms a drain region **52** in the extended drain region **50**. A third diffusion region containing P conductivity-type ions forms P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** in the extended drain region **50**. The P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** have different size. The size of the P-field block **60** is larger than that of the P-field block **61**, **62**, and **63**. In a preferred embodiment, the size sequence of these P-field blocks is block **60** > block **61** > block **62** > block **63**. The P-field block **63** is nearest to the drain region **52**. A source diffusion region **55** having N⁺ conductivity-type ions forms a source region **56** in the N-well **30** formed by the second diffusion region **37**. A contact diffusion region **57** containing P⁺ conductivity-type ions forms a contact region **58** in the N-well **30** formed by the second diffusion region **37**. A fourth diffusion region **67** containing P conductivity-type ions forms an isolated P-well **65** in the N-well **30** formed by the second diffusion region **37** for preventing from breakdown. The isolated P-well **65** encloses the source region **56** and the contact region **58**. The P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** form junction-fields in the N-well **30**. This depletes a drift region and equalizes the capacitance of parasitic capacitors between the drain region **52** and the source region **56**.

[0013] A channel is developed between the source region **56** and the drain region **52**

extending through the N-well **30**. The P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** further reduce the on-resistance of the channel. A thin gate oxide **81** and a thick field oxide **87** are formed over the P-substrate **90**. A polysilicon gate electrode **40** is formed above the gate oxide **81** and the field oxide **87** to control a current flow in the channel. A drain-gap **71** is formed between the drain diffusion region **53** and the field oxide **87** to maintain a space between the drain diffusion region **53** and the field oxide **87**. A source-gap **72** is formed between the field oxide **87** and the isolated P-well **65** to maintain a space between the field oxide **87** and the isolated P-well **65**. Proper placement of the source-gap **72** and the drain-gap **71** can substantially increase the breakdown voltage of the LDMOS transistor **100**. In addition, the drain-gap **71** can further reduce the on-resistance of the channel.

[0014] Insulation layer **85** and **86** cover the polysilicon gate electrode **40** and the field oxide **87** and **88**. The insulation layers **85** and **86** are, for example, made of silicon dioxide. A drain metal contact **15** is a metal electrode for contacting with the drain diffusion region **53**. A source metal contact **25** is a metal electrode for contacting with the source diffusion region **55** and the contact diffusion region **57**.

[0015] FIG. 3 is a top view of the proposed LDMOS transistor **100**. The LDMOS transistor **100** includes the drain electrode **10**, the source electrode **20**, the polysilicon gate electrode **40**, a bonding pad **12** for the drain electrode **10**, a bonding pad **22** for the source electrode **20**, a bonding pad **42** for the polysilicon gate electrode **40**. Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the extended drain region **50** and the drain diffusion region **53** both form the drain electrode **10**. The isolated P-well **65**, the source diffusion region **55** and the contact diffusion region **57** form the source electrode **20**. The bonding pad **12** is connected to the drain metal contact **15** for the drain electrode **10**. The bonding pad **22** is connected to the source metal contact **25** for the source electrode **20**. The bonding pad **42** is connected to

the polysilicon gate electrode **40**. The N-well **30** enclosing the P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** are connected from the drain electrode **10** to the source electrode **20**. The portion of the N-well **30** located in between the P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** reduces the on-resistance of the channel.

[0016] The P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** are located in the extended drain region **50** of the N-well **30**. The N-well **30**, the P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** deplete the drift region, which build the electrical field in the N-well **30** to increase the breakdown voltage. In order to get higher breakdown voltage, the extended drain region **50** must be fully depleted before the breakdown occurs. The N-well **30** and P-field blocks **60**, **61**, **62** and **63** enable the extended drain region **50** to be depleted before the breakdown occurs even though the doping density of the drift region is high. This allows the drift region to have higher doping density and accomplish low resistance. The sizes of the P-field blocks can be optimized to achieve the desired effect. The doping density of the N-well **30** and the P-field blocks are properly determined to achieve the equalized capacitance. Therefore a high breakdown voltage and low on-resistance LDMOS transistor **100** can be realized. Furthermore, the portion of the N-well **30** formed by the second diffusion region **37** produces a low-impedance path for the source region **56**, which restricts the current flow in between the drain region **52** and the source region **56**.

[0017] The LDMOS transistor **100** of the present invention provides a simple structure to achieve high breakdown voltage, low on-resistance and isolation performance. Furthermore, low cost and high production yield are also accomplished.

[0018] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the structure of the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. In view of the foregoing, it is intended that the present

invention cover modifications and variations of this invention provided they fall within the scope of the following claims and their equivalents.